

## **National Forest Advisory Board Meeting**

November 19, 2014

Mystic Ranger District

### **Members Present:**

Chairman Dick Brown, Vice Chairman Bill Kohlbrand, Lauris Tysdal, Linda Tokarczyk, Lon Carrier, John Gomez, Jeanne Whalen, David Brenneisen, Nancy Trautman, Bob Burns, David Hague, Mike Verchio, Jessica Crowder, Jeff Vonk, Alice Allen

### **Members Absent:**

Craig Tieszen, Tony Leif, Richard Krull, Wayne Bunge, Susan Johnson, Mary Zimmerman  
Jennifer Hinkhouse, Danielle Wiebers, Keith Haiar

### **Forest Service Representatives:**

Craig Bobzien, Ericka Luna, Scott Jacobson, Beth Doten, Todd Pechota, Matt Spring, Pam Wilhelm, Dave Mertz, Blaine Cook, Scott Haas, Steve Hirtzel, Twila Morris

### **Others:**

Approximately 20 members of the public were in attendance. Two Congressional Representatives were also in attendance; Kyle Holt (Noem – R, South Dakota), and Mark Haugen (Thune – R, South Dakota).

[Prior to the start of the meeting, Craig Bobzien presented an award to Tom Blair for his years of service on the National Forest Advisory Board. Recognition was also given to Jeff Vonk, who will be retiring as Secretary of the South Dakota Game, Fish, and Parks]

### **Introduction & Welcome:**

**Brown:** Call the meeting to order, 1:00 p.m. Welcome everyone to the National Forest Advisory Board (NFAB) meeting, November 19, 2014. Members of the public, we are delighted that you are here. We have a full agenda today as usual.

### **Approve the Agenda:**

**Brown:** Does anyone have any changes to the agenda? If there are no changes, can I have a motion to approve the agenda? Motion made by Bob Burns second by Lon Carrier. All in favor of the agenda as it is presented, say aye, opposed say no; the agenda is approved.

### **Approve the October Meeting Notes:**

**Brown:** The draft meeting notes were sent out and corrections were made. Can I have a motion to approve the October meeting notes? Motion made by Jeff Vonk second by John Gomez. All in favor of the notes as presented, say aye, opposed say no; the October meeting notes are approved. One addition to the October notes will be a statement from Lauris Tysdal.

## **Housekeeping:**

**Bobzien:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. For those of you who are not familiar with this office, there are restrooms out both side doors of this conference room. If we need to evacuate, if there is a fire alarm, go out the front and meet in the parking lot so that we can account for everyone.

## **Meeting Protocols:**

**Brown:** Welcome to our visitors today, members of the public, and staff and other guests. Please put your cell phone on vibrate or shut it off. If we have time for public input, it will be the last 15 minutes of the day. Those at the table should be voting members or substitutes. All alternates are welcome at the table. Part of the protocols is that because we have 16 areas of interest, and we want to make sure everyone has time to speak, direct your question to the Chairman. If there are follow-up questions, we'll take those and then go to the next individual. This is a great opportunity for all of us to be heard; so please make sure you take your comments to your representative if you don't get a chance to speak.

## **Hot Topics**

### **Legislative Updates - Federal**

**Brown:** Our next topic is Legislative Updates; we have a representative from Senator Thune's office and Congresswoman Noem's office; no one from Senator Johnson's office. We'll start with Mark Haugen from Senator Thune's office.

**Haugen:** Everyone is back in DC; they will be out next week for Thanksgiving, and then out again after a few weeks, for Christmas. Caucus elections were held; Senator Thune was voted in as Conference Chair which is the #3 ranking person in the committee. He also was voted in as the Chairman for the Commerce Committee.

The vote on the Keystone Pipeline failed by one; after break there are a couple of must pass type things, tax extender items, a budget for the year, etc. The Senator had Transportation Secretary Fox out last week; they met with those involved in the agriculture and railroad situation as well as a meeting out at Ellsworth. From there they went out to Chamberlain and checked out the trains.

The Senator sent a letter to Chief Tidwell urging him to increase the timber harvest; very good letter hoping to increase this year's timber harvest target, and touched on how successful the MPB project has been.

We got a response to a letter the Senator wrote to the Fish & wildlife; talked about white nose syndrome; the letter said that although that might not be a cause of threat out here, they must explore opportunities to see if there are problems that exist. They say that timber harvest during breeding season may kill bats.

Thank you Craig for the chili lunch.

**Brown:** Thank you Mark. Are there any questions for Mark? If not, we'll go to Congresswoman Noem's Representative Kyle Holt next.

**Holt:** I would like to introduce you to Evan; he is an intern for Kristi. Evan is a junior at Central high school. He has been a lot of great help. The House is back in session; they were expecting the lame duck session to be quite, but with the Keystone Pipeline votes, that won't be the case. The House will vote on some legislation for the EPA today; this would rule that the EPA disclose the science they are using for certain things, not just saying you have to do it. Kristi has called for EPA legislation in 2015 for a delay in the Navigable Water Bill that is still hanging out there. Don't know if the budget will be signed or if it will be another Continuing Resolution. Tax extenders; tomorrow the President will announce his executive action on immigration reform.

**Brown:** Thank you Kyle. Are there any questions for Kyle? No one from Senator Johnson's office is here today. I would like to say that I visited with Mike Rounds' office about this Board, and he is familiar with it. We should expect that they may have an observer here at the next meeting.

On the Wyoming side we'll go to Jeannie Whalen for a report on the state and federal level for Wyoming.

**Whalen:** I touched bases with Senator Barrasso, Senator Enzi and Representative Lummis offices; they are busy getting back to work; their main deal is to keep the Government open. It is nice to see Thune and Barrasso in such positions of leadership; that is good for South Dakota and Wyoming.

**Brown:** Thank you for your update Jeannie, are there any questions for Jeannie? If not we'll ask Bill Kohlbrand to give an update.

[Bill deferred to Jessica Crowder]

**Crowder:** Thank you Mr. Chairman. The Governor's Task Force on Forest Health in Wyoming submitted 12 recommendations; expect that to be available before Christmas, some recommendations will trickle into the Black Hills in SD. I'll update the Board as it becomes public.

**Brown:** Thank you Jessica. Next we'll go to State Representative Mike Verchio.

**Verchio:** Mountain Pine Beetle (MPB) funding is the next item coming up on December 2<sup>nd</sup>; I suspect it will be just like last year. There is tremendous support for the western part of the state. We need to keep on them, keep it current, it's an ongoing battle.

**Brown:** Secretary Vonk do you have any comments to add?

**Vonk:** It's all good.

**Brown:** Scott, would you like to talk about the current status of the 16 positions on the Board? All of the current members have re-applied, thank you for responding. If you know of individuals in your area who might be interested in serving on the Board, please encourage them to fill out an application and get them into Scott. Scott do you have any comments?

**Jacobson:** The package will go in tomorrow; it takes about 4-6 weeks. There are 30 applications going in this package. Once the members are approved, we'll have the slate of members for the new Board starting next July.

**Brown:** For the members of the public – if you have an interest, fill out an application and return that to Scott Jacobson; remember nothing happens overnight, so it takes a while.

### **Forest Service Hot Topics ~ Craig Bobzien**

**Bobzien:** We have an issue I would like to bring before the Board. We received a request for fat tire bicycle use on snowmobile trails in the BHNF. This is something I will be asking the Board for advice on at the January meeting.

On Monday, I received a briefing from the Northern Hills Ranger, Rhonda O'Byrne, and the Bearlodge Ranger, Steve Kozel; each had received proposals from different groups – seeking to ride fat tire mountain bikes on the snowmobile trails. It's a growing sport, popular in the Front Range and Wyoming. We are a multiple use forest, with that said, they asked to immediately start using the trails, and I declined that.

As you know on our motorized travel management, we spent years doing that, as a designated trail. Subpart C consists of developing an over the snow policy. There is no due date for the over the snow policy; but we do need to develop the over snow plan. I will be asking the Board, the Chairman and Vice Chairman to be thinking about how we involve; in this case people from the fat tire groups, snowmobile groups, and Wyoming. We have a state trails coordinator in both states, cross country trails groups; these are all working quite well across the forest. This is an important policy decision. We'll be looking for an appointment for a Working Group, requesting advice for short term issues and overall guidance in our formal over snow public involvement and decision making.

**Brown:** Are there any questions for Craig before we go to the regular agenda.

**Tysdal:** Why don't you just approve these types of things; what are you looking at that keeps them off the trails?

**Bobzien:** Fat tire bicycles are currently restricted on snow mobile trails; so again, the established uses have gone on for some time. There are issues related to mixed traffic safety; issues regarding the impacts to a groomed trail system; social issues, etc. So as a matter of public knowledge; just because I can approve something like this, I don't think it is wise without seeking public comment.

**Brown:** Are there any questions for Supervisor Bobzien?

**Burns:** The snowmobilers pay a fee, so were the bike groups going to by permits as well?

**Bobzien:** There are a host of things when you open this up, and those are the questions that need to be addressed by the public.

**Brown:** Any other questions?

**Hague:** Who grooms the snowmobile trails?

**Bobzien:** The State of South Dakota grooms the trails with fees gathered by selling permits, used for the grooming work.

**Vonk:** This is a program that works well. From our perspective, there are the physical aspects too, but I got to believe that there would be serious safety issues with the speed of snowmobiles put together with bicycles.

**Brown:** Is there anything else for Craig?

### **Regular Agenda**

#### **Recreation Facility Working Group Update**

**Brown:** Moving on to our next topic, I'll just jump right in to it. As most of you know Supervisor Bobzien established a Recreation Facility Working Group; members are: NFAB Members: Alice Allen, Dick Brown, Lon Carrier, and Linda Tokarczyk. NFS Staff: Scott Haas, Forest Recreation Program Manager

#### **Update:**

Our last meeting of the Recreation Facility Work Group October 15, 2014 focused on the process and timetable the BHFS is following to assess the status of BH NFS recreation facilities as it develops a new five year program of work by the end of FY 15.

Here are a couple of early work group observations we would like to share with the Advisory Board members.

First, in the past, national forest recreational facility decisions were made based almost solely on economics – the process now considers the social as well as the environmental aspects to work toward sustainable recreation.

Second, our work group role is to help express, in this decision-making assessment, the many things that are considered when deciding to decommission a facility/site – our messaging to the public may actually focus more on the “how” than the “what”.

During our October 15 NFAB meeting, Scott Haas noted, “There was a nationwide Recreation Facility Analysis done in 2005. They went thru and analyzed the recreation facilities on each Forest and developed a program of work. Before it was determined that another nationwide process was going to be done, Craig thought we should undertake this on our Forest; and we did start this process before the nationwide process was developed.

How does the region fit in? The Region is facilitating this and taking it down to the Forest level. The Region is using an enterprise team that sells themselves as a business similar to a consultant. The region is helping us get some of the enterprise team's time.

As for the Black Hills involvement, 10 people will look at the info we have and look at the sustainability; then we'll give them a rating. We'll bring it back to the Working Group to re-analyze, then take it back and have the enterprise team help us develop a program of work. We would like to get this developed by January or February. The goal is to have a five year program of work by the end of FY 15"

Following the October 15, 2014 meeting, Scott sent to the Working Group four documents associated with the procedure to evaluate the condition inventory for each of the Development Recreation Sites.

"The first document provides some common definitions, including annual and deferred maintenance. The second document is a listing of all of the features that we evaluate (typically on a 5-year cycle). The third document is a photo guide that gives visual representations of the minor constructed features that may be encountered.

The final document is the data collection sheet that is used. Each feature is measured (linear feet, square feet, etc.) then each is put into a condition class –

- Annual Maintenance/Prevention
- Deferred Maintenance – Repair
- Deferred Maintenance – Replace
- Decommission
- Deferred Maintenance - Planning/NEPA/Contract Prep (costs associated with these activities)
- Capital Improvement – Alteration
- Capital Improvement – Expansion
- Capital Improvement – New Construction
- Capital Improvement - Planning/NEPA/Contract Prep (costs associated with these activities)

Once tallied in the database, this gives us total Deferred Maintenance costs for each site."

Based on our discussion and Scott's report of the Enterprise Team function, the working group's next task is to review the existing list of 110 facilities for a one-by-one analysis of current conditions and status.

At the conclusion of the working group's next meeting, we will be in a more informed position to respond to any work completed by the USFS Enterprise Team on their assessment of the sites and development of the early draft 5 year plan of work for recreation facilities.

**Brown:** Lon, Alice or Linda, any comments, and following that Scott, any updates?

**Carrier:** I think we've communicated well in e-mails as well.

**Brown:** Scott could you give us an update?

**Haas:** I don't have too much more to add; December 18 there will be a little more information; bits and starts; awaiting more marching orders.

**Brown:** We'll meet again to do the 110 sites; this is a big key part of what happens on the BHNH. With that Supervisor I'll turn it over to you for an introduction of the next topic.

### **Forest Health & Pine Beetle Response (PBR) Monitoring Report**

**Bobzien:** Welcome Dave Mertz. Dave is our Natural Resource Staff Office for the Forest; he and Blaine Cook will be presenting today.

**Mertz:** Blaine is going to talk about forest health. Kurt Allen is with Forest Health with Region 2 and every year around this time, he gives us an update; he is out in the woods all the time, and he gives us his idea of where we're at.

We'll talk about the Pine Beetle Response Project (PBR); this is our second year of implementation, as part of that project, we do an annual monitoring report, and we'll produce a draft of that monitoring report by the end of the month. It is an adaptive management project, so we want to learn from that as we are implementing, and make adjustments as we do things. It approved a lot of things upfront, but we do have to do the surveys as we go. Blaine will give an update on the latest status of implementing the PBR; he'll cover the role out plan over time, as well as the plans into the future. Dave Thom is going to give us an update on the aerial photo project. For the last five years we've been getting aerial photo coverage of the region. It's a multi funded project; Dave will give you that info. He will also give you an update on the Conservation Leaders Working Group. Welcome Blaine Cook.

**Cook:** Presently the Forest Health report is in draft mode. There are several ways to do surveys, aerial detection from the air; or like this one, on the ground. This is where the bugs are right now; this is where the green hits are right now. The crew did strip plots all over the forest 151 plots, strip plots provide an estimate of the beetle infestation. We don't survey every tree, it can't be done. This is a sample from all over the forest.

As far as tree mortality, trends seem to be decreasing as a whole. Around the Jasper Fire area, which is odd, there are a lot of pops, then the Bowman Ridge area south of Custer, and north in the Deadwood area.

Recommendations: large scale Silvicultural treatments are the best defense against the MPB. Treatments prior to the attack are the best bet. That in a nut shell is what the bugs look like right now. The aerial imagery is where the bugs were a year ago.

**Mertz:** Does anyone have any questions?

**Brenneisen:** Can you elaborate on the design of the sampling?

**Cook:** Cruise lines were one mile in length, 66 feet wide; four acres per line; 151 lines. For a total of 605 acres of survey forest wide.

**Brenneisen:** How did they determine the location of the cruise lines?

**Cook:** It was a random statistical process. (Blaine showed a map of the Forest) You can see the dots on this map; those are where the surveys were located, peppered all over the place.

**Brown:** Other questions for Blaine or Dave?

**Kohlbrand:** When you say that logging is the long term solution, if we can only treat 33,000 acres a year, how will we ever gain any ground with that amount of treatment?

**Mertz:** We are trying to put the 30,000 acres in the best places, to get the best value for our investment.

**Kohlbrand:** And when it takes five years to put the project together, that is counterproductive too.

**Mertz:** Generally it doesn't take that long, normally it's just about two years out. But we also have the PBR Project, and on the turn around, we've had sales within a month. Star Academy as an example, we turned that round in a month.

**Gomez:** You stated that mortality was decreasing, and you showed three areas of high impact; could you quantify that decrease a little better please.

**Mertz:** That is a rough sample, it would be best to have Kurt to respond to that. I would hate for us to miss-state the information.

**Cook:** As a whole, it's a forest look as a whole. In three areas it is increasing, but the other areas there are not as many, so as a whole, there is a slight decline.

**Mertz:** Depending on where you are standing you may have a difference perspective. Scott Guffey was at our Conservation Leader Working Group meeting, and he said that at least in some areas of Pennington County, they are looking a whole lot better. Then there are areas in Lawrence County that are looking worse.

**Brown:** It might be helpful if we continue to proceed, if these topics are all together, and then get to the questions later.

**Vonk:** Help me understand, you say that areas are looking a lot better; what does that mean? Does that mean that the trees are all dead so there are no green hits?

**Mertz:** In regards to the number of green hit trees per acre - that average is going down.

**Vonk:** In an area that had an outbreak three years ago, there are not a lot of green trees left and if we sample that, there are no new hits; does that mean it looks better?

**Mertz:** Quantifying the impact of an infestation is based on an annual basis; what is the amount of the new green hit trees, it is a bell shaped curve.

**Vonk:** Is it green hit trees per every thousand out there, or any number?



**Mertz:** We'll quantify that with the aerial photo. The overall green hit trees, if you are looking at a smaller area, then you quantify by number of green hit trees per acre. If you look at it in the overall region or given area; you quantify that by thousands.

**Brown:** Blaine do you want to go ahead with your full presentation?

**Cook:** I'll go over some numbers from the FY 2014 Monitoring.

Total PBR Acres	248,715
Completed Acres	67
Treated Acres (Awarded	3,750
Prep Acres Planned	49,784
No Treat Acres	81,859
Not Reviewed Acres	113,321

Completed: Rose Petal Timber Sale; 67 acres, 421 CCF volume

<u>Active Sales</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Volume</u>
Mongoose TS	BL	272	
Deer Spring TS add-on	HC	157	
Dry Beaver TS add-on	HC	383	
McInery TS add-on	HC	321	
Star Academy	HC	173	1529
Fox Ridge	HC	215	2320
Buck Mountain	MY	1276	12667
Custer Gap	MY	779	7832
Viento	NH	60	687
Lager POL	NH		
Stewardship	NH	114	1427
TOTAL		3,750	

Explanation:

Completed means done on the ground and closed in timber sale accounting. There may be a time when all the trees are cut, but some processes have not been done. After all of the processes are done Timber Sale accounting closes the sale. The only sale "closed" for 2014 is Rose Petal on the Mystic District.

Treated acres are sold, active, timber purchasers are in there doing logging.

A prep acre planned has to do with our five year plan; we plan five years in advance for timber sales. The Districts identify the current sales.

No treat acres are areas that have prohibitive topography – determined they were not harvestable, almost 82,000 acres.

**Cook:** Does anyone have any questions?

**Brenneisen:** In the West Rim Timber Sale which is under contract just wrapping up, the District identified some additional acreage – then it was determined that it was too many acres to add to an existing sale, where would that fall in this list? Would that area be fast tracked to get it offered?

**Mertz:** As an additional individual sale? I don't know what the Districts plans are for that. To my knowledge they don't have plans to do that any time soon.

**Brenneisen:** It's in an area with increasing beetle activity, the timber sale is currently under contract, and there would be a vehicle thru which you could treat the area. If it's been decided that it won't be treated now, and it's not on the schedule for the future, how is PBR helping us?

**Mertz:** As we implement PBR, there are a lot of individual scenarios that come up. My impression over all is that PBR is certainly helping us; it's helping us be more flexible in a lot quicker time frame. That's not to say that it might turn out to be that it can't help us as much as we would hope. Every situation is unique; that project especially.

One thing we did talk about this morning with the Working Group is that the situation changes from year to year, so we have our five year plan. This is the time of year we are looking at making changes to that. We ask for input from the Working Group to give us that feedback. If there is feedback, like yours, that is what we are looking for. We've done this in the past, we'll make some changes, and in other cases, we may not.

**Brown:** On the prep acres planned, is the five year timber sale outlook, are those specific stands or trees, and if it is, is it fluid?

**Cook:** Yes they are fluid; they are identified by the District. They are making an estimate, they look at the green polygons, and they estimate how many acres they can get. Once they get out there they start weeding areas out that are too steep, rocky, etc. In the process the District will hopefully get those numbers of acres out there.

**Brown:** Other questions for Blaine?

**Bobzien:** I have three comments: One, Dave Thom will speak in a bit, and we'll talk about the intelligence gathering on the flight survey. Thank you Blaine for filling in for Kurt Allen today; in trying to generalize it may not be a precise message, so we'll get Kurt in here for exact information.

Second is a matter that is quite important, Dave touched on it, for the MPB Working Group, we are gathering the info on the flight surveys, we'll use the info, and working with the partners, to develop our strategy. In January we'll ask for a recommendation on our investments in the areas so that we are ready to be in the right places with our projects. This was an interim update today. Dave and Blaine will be working on this; my ask is for a proposal and discussion and recommendation for the January meeting.

Third, Blaine presented the PBR project that is one of 10 or 11 different projects that we are doing for forest health. It is one of many. While these acres are just a subset of the acres we do. It's called the PBR project, but those are the areas that weren't covered in the 10 or 11 other areas. Our intent is to work with our cooperators, and adjust to be where we want to be.

Lastly with Bill, on why it is so important; where we had the PBR project, and our cultural surveys, when we have all that we can turn something around in a short time, but when we don't we have to do the surveys, etc., so we are poised to go into some areas quicker than others.

**Tysdal:** Since we have so many dead trees, have you looked into the future are you going to plant back some trees, any chance you could plant spruce trees?

**Mertz:** We have planted trees in the Jasper Fire area. There is not the ability to seed in from living trees out there. The Black Hills regenerates pretty well with ponderosa pine. In the MPB areas killed, generally speaking, we don't need to worry about regeneration, if anything we have to worry about too many trees coming back in.

**Tysdal:** Then are you prepared to thin all those trees?

**Mertz:** We will do what when we can, with the funding that we get. Two limiting factors for pre-commercial thinning projects; NEPA coverage - cleared for treatment, and also funding. We have capability on both of these, but it comes down to funding. If there's not a commercial value to the trees the Forest Service pays the full cost.

**Brown:** The discussion about the issue of funding, limited amount of funding; do you decide to put the priority of funding on clearing to save trees, or do you take the money and replant what may have been devastated; there is only so much money.

**Mertz:** It depends on the way that the funding comes down; those are not in the same pots of money. We get funding to implement our commercial timber sale program; and we try to update those every year. We get a difference pot of money to do reforestation.

**Bobzien:** On Lauris' question; we have appropriated dollars to do thinning using chainsaws or mechanical equipment. After this segment we'll have Todd and Matt talk about prescribed burning. Later in the agenda Pam Wilhelm will talk about our budget.

**Bobzien:** I would like to bring Dave Thom up. Dave is the MPB Working Group Coordinator; Dave works with our all lands strategy.

**Thom:** About three years ago, Craig invited a group of 50 conservation leaders to convene and work on the issue of the mountain pine beetle. There is a smaller group, the MPB Working Group, with reps from all the different agencies, working along with the bigger group to accomplish the work.

The beetle flew in August; they are now nesting under the bark; but this week it is appropriate to remind the group that even though it has been really cold; the question is asked will the cold weather kill the beetles; and the answer is no – the weather in South Dakota is just about right for growing mountain pine beetles. We are right in the middle of our FY 2015 season, cut and chunk, timber sale work, lots going on.

**Air Photo Detection:** This is the third or fourth year we've done air photo detection. We hire a contractor from Rapid City to do the flight; this year the cost was \$56,000. The project is multi agency funded; the BLM, FS, Neiman Timber Products, the State of South Dakota and the State of Wyoming all contribute to the cost.

**Thom:** Last year we had 33,000 acres detected. The collaborative efforts covered 200+ thousand acres; the State of South Dakota coordinating; hope to be all done by the end of this calendar year.

Fun fact on the aerial photos; we're talking about the mountain pine beetle, but this picture shows you a clear cut that was done for mountain goat habitat.

Summary:

- 1) Purpose is for specific location and movement trends of the beetles and, when analyzed, to determine population trends.
- 2) Flights completed in September. Later than desired because of clouds, haze and weather.
- 3) Analysts now have the digital data (photos) and are beginning to identify small clumps of infested trees (a "fader" analysis) that appear on the photos. Clump size is as small as 2-4 trees. They circle them on a computer screen. A program then compiles the acreage data. Anticipated to be completed the end of 2014.
- 4) Analysts work for Neiman Timber Company, SD Resource Conservation and Forestry, USFS-Black Hills NF, and Wyoming State Forestry.
- 5) Contractor is Fugro Geospatial from Rapid City. Total cost of the photos (contracted) is \$59,215 paid with funds contributed by USFS, SD RC&F, Wyoming and BLM. This does not include the admin time and analyst time.
- 6) Contract and program is administered by the SDDA RC&F in collaboration with members of the MPB WG.

**Burns:** The photos of buckhorn mountain; is that a steep slope that could not be logged that is now infested?

**Thom:** Yes, that is pretty steep, below it was all thinned and harvested. The bugs are occurring on the steep slope; we can only get to the ground that is less than 40% slope.

**Brenneisen:** You mentioned that in the carbonate area, some of the funding would be shifted to the limestone salvage. Is that state money being used on a Forest Service commercial sale?

**Thom:** That is a great question. Greg Josten and Ken Hehr were here at the meeting and are going to get together and talk about that more. That is a FY15 project, so that makes it state money that is funding these projects. The details have to be worked out, but that is what is exciting, Ken offered an alternative, and now the Forest Service and the State will work together on it.

**Brenneisen:** Will that allow you to stretch your funds out into FY 15?

**Mertz:** In that case, there is State funding, for MPB suppression, so they could use that money to do cut and chunk and maybe it wouldn't be that affective in the carbonate area. So they are looking at other ways to do more. A limiting factor for putting up the sale is the marking. This sale right now is in addition to our current timber sale program. So they are helping us get an additional sale on our program, but we have to get addition funding.

**Brown:** Any questions? Thank you Dave; I appreciated that you put on the legislator and community leader briefing too, it was well attended. I don't know if the Board got the handouts, you sent it out to others, but it might be useful to get those handouts to the Board.

**Thom:** Thank you, I appreciate the legislators that were there, nice conversation, talked about FY 16 in terms of the state budget process.

**Brown:** Jim, as a member of the Working Group, would you like to add anything?

**Scherrer:** As everyone remembers, Supervisor Bobzien assigned a Forest Health Working Group as a subcommittee of the Board, and several members of the Board are members; Bill, Nancy, myself, and John, and so we've been very active participants in the MPB Working Group meetings representing you guys. My comments are those that represent the Forest Health Working Group.

As a follow up to Dave Mertz and Dave Thom's presentations, today was a really, really good important foundational meeting for the future, in that Greg Josten was presenting some info that had just come off the field in regards to findings in the Northern Hills, and the data they have from their markers was available. It was very dramatic, and explicit. It shows a significant impact in parts of the Northern Hills as well as in Custer and the WY/SD border, but specifically this area he discussed today, the concentration of MPB in operable and non-operable parts of the Forest. Greg clarified that they could go in and harvest the trees that are surrounded by inoperable land. Greg, also representing tax dollars, stated that he wants input from everyone in the room, as it turns out he was recognizing from the data that there is such a concentration in the area, decisions need to be made about where it makes sense to go in and treat with cut and chunk. Greg got input, and as it turned out Ken Hehr from the NH raised a question that Dave asked about. Ken stated that the Northern Hills has 1600 acre area that is operable and we could use some help to get in and make a contract. So members of Dave's area were in full support of that. Dave Mertz stated that we could make minor adjustments. And at the end of the day we would shift some tax dollars from an area that looks to be less productive to an area that we could make a better impact. It's only 1600 acres, but the fact of the matter is, it was going to cost 400,000 in the other areas. So the decision was made to switch the location of the work, however not at the expense of existing landowners, and to do a 300 foot buffer as well. Even though it was a small piece of land, it was a good investment. It's important for us to use that kind of initial opportunity for flexibility and looking for the glass half full.

There is a concern among a lot of us including Senator Mike Verchio, that we've lost momentum. There is a sense in the Governor's office that they are on top of this and the funding may not be as necessary now as in the past. This has to be interpreted in the context that it exists on the ground. It is critical to understand that there are areas that are inhabited by folks in the Black Hills that are getting blown up; we are talking about 4-7 trees per acre. We are going to hear Dr. Ball and Kurt Allen say that it makes no sense to cut and chunk and then do no follow-up. We have an aggressive approach to get the legislature to provide us support and we'll have that opportunity thru lobbyist; but be sure when you read that it is static across the landscape, the work is not done. The folks in Wyoming are in line to get more money than they did last year.

When you talk about static – you look at 30,000+ acres last year, and we are expecting 30,000 this year. And that is in spite of the thousands of trees we took off. If we had not taken those off, it would look a lot different. If you pull the rug out and stop the support, it will look a lot different.

Supervisor Bobzien has a vision to talk about healthy forests; there are some areas, such as the central hills, that we have to focus our efforts on managing the areas for safety for folks in and

around towns. We'll have to focus on having our county and states use some of that money to clean-up; and for crews to build buffers off the highway. We don't want a tourist to have a tree fall on a car.

**Brown:** Thank you very much past Chairman Scherrer, we appreciate your advocacy and participation, it is great to have you there as a spokesperson. Like Senator Mike Verchio said, it is not an easy challenge.

### **Wildfire Risk Assessment and Prioritization Process ~ Todd Pechota**

**Brown:** Next on the agenda is the topic Wildfire Risk Assessment and Prioritization Process by Todd Pechota.

**Bobzien:** I would like introduce Todd Pechota, the Forest Fire Management Staff Officer. He also served as the acting District Ranger at the Bearlodge office. Also, please welcome Matt Spring, a fire & fuels specialist from the Hell Canyon Ranger District. This upcoming presentation is a good transition from the last topic. We talked about mountain pine beetle and forest health and what we can do to make the Forest more resilient. What Todd is going to talk about is wildfire risk assessment. We can't be in all places and we have to work cooperatively. Our second topic, which Matt will discuss, is on the use of prescribed fire. It's not just about reducing slash piles but it is also about reducing fuel loads and crown wildfires while being strategic and mindful. We will also think about what this means in terms of mountain pine beetle fire risks and how to make the Forest more resilient.

**Pechota:** I'll talk about a couple of key points in the wildfire risk assessment and prioritization framework briefing paper that is being handed out. About a 1 ½ years ago, the budget became very competitive. Five agencies came together to put together a wildland firefighter interagency cohesion strategy document. The three main goals in that document are 1. Restore and maintain landscapes so they are resilient to fire-related disturbances. 2. Create fire-adapted communities so human populations and infrastructure can withstand a wildfire without loss of life and property. The strategy will offer options and opportunities to engage communities and work with them to become more resistant to wildfire threats. 3. Wildfire Response-all jurisdictions participate in making and implementing safe, effective, efficient risk-based wildfire management decisions. As I've told this board, there are 3,600 acres of private property boundaries and 56 communities at fire risk. We have a one size fits all strategy and that is full suppression. We will work to minimize the number of burned acres as long as we can do so safely and strategically. There has been a lot of work done by people on the ground. The mountain pine beetle working group and other conservation leaders have come together to identify areas for treatment as it pertains to mountain pine beetle, but we felt that there was some subjectivity to that. So we decided to undertake the wildfire risk and assessment framework. What this process does is it looks at the burn probability and how it will burn under 6 scenarios from low intensity fire up to a 6 foot flame length in a spatially identified area. When we started this process, it wasn't just the Forest Service. Other agencies and people including, Bill Kohlbrand, Dave Thom, Jay Esperance, the regional office and national fire ecologist all had a hand in working through this process. With the burn probability and when you looked at high value resource areas, everything was important. So what happens when everything is important? Nothing is important and we didn't have a useful product when everything was considered important. We narrowed it down to

5 high resource areas; WUI, forest vegetation, infrastructure, threatened and endangered species and watersheds. We had to identify the relative importance of each and their response to wildfire. Remember not every wildfire is detrimental. On this map, the brown areas have a higher burn probability and higher occurrence of fire happening. When you overlay this map with the mountain pine beetle plan, guess what, the areas are not that far off. This validated what the model said and where they already want to go. This model is not the final answer though as there is no substitute for on the ground knowledge. What this does is help the decision makers. It helps answer some questions; such as if we only have so much money, where are the best 30,000 acres at? This model will never be used independently and this is not the final answer, but it allows us to compete for funding on the national scale. Again we were a little skeptical as we were the first Forest in the nation to apply this at a Forest level. We hope that there will be value in this as an example. We did a proposal for a restoration and resiliency project and this model was attached to show that it was substantiated by the best available science. We hope this helps us to be competitive.

**Allen:** We developed an all lands policy for the mountain pine beetle response work. What do you see as an all lands policy for the fire world?

**Pechota:** Would an all lands approach be easy and efficient, yes. Would it come with high risks and other obstacles, not sure? We did build some credibility with private land owners to apply prescribed fire across multi-agency boundaries and I hope that we can get there.

**Bobzien:** We wanted to use this for our fire leadership so they had good information to work from. It will help us to affirm or change where we do our work. Will there be some change? There is not an answer at this time, but it has been discussed at two meetings.

**Hague:** Are any of the fire departments around the hills part of this strategy?

**Pechota:** Jay Esperance did a good job representing the interest from several local departments. We tried to look at this from points of view from everyone who lives and works here.

**Brown:** You talked about the full suppression policy. Do you see any way to modify it?

**Pechota:** We can manage a fire to manage multiple objectives. What every ones objectives will be may look different. At the end of the day, there aren't that many people that want to see us manage a fire and run it across their land or their grazing areas and so it is challenging to do that. What it gets down to is to be efficient and implement a strategy with high success and not get someone hurt or killed. Matt Spring is going to talk about the Section 2 prescribed fire. This is one of the best examples of interagency cooperation in implementing and planning a burn. Many agencies were involved including a private property land owner.

**Spring:** I'm the prescribed fuels specialist on the Hell Canyon Ranger District. The Norbeck Section 2 prescribed fire was located southeast of Custer. We had done other projects in this area before the prescribed fire including a wildlife project doing meadow enhancement, other wildlife area thinning work and we also had a commercial timber sale in that area. This is a unique piece of land as it falls on several jurisdictions. We reached out to the National Park Service, Wind Cave, Custer State Park and a private landowner also approached the agencies to burn his private land. We also worked with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and wildlife biologists. This fall things came into alignment with the weather and we pulled the trigger. There were a lot of other

partners that helped at the burn including, several VFDs, State, Game & Fish and the Medicine Bow-Routt National Forest. There were about 120 personnel and we burned 1,928 acres. Everything went really well. It was a two day burn. We were able to burn piles within the burn area with the ignition done by a helicopter. The helicopter was used for efficiency and it helped with safety. There was a lot of preparation and thought that went into the prescribed burn. At times, it seemed complicated and cumbersome and there was some resistance before we did this as well. But the burn went well. We had the right people, in the right place, at the right time. There were multiple jurisdictions and we had to come to a common ground to meet objectives. I think we met our objectives which were fuels reduction and enhancing wildlife habitat.

**Allen:** Todd this is a question for you. You did your all lands project and do you have a monitoring plan to see how you met your objectives?

**Spring:** We have photo points installed. Custer State Park and Wind Cave have monitoring plans going on as well and there has been a lot of good communication.

**Kohlbrand:** In your agreements, who would have been liable if something happened?

**Spring:** We all bought into this and there were four agency administrators that were backing the plan.

**Pechota:** Prescribed fire is a needed tool. I won't say every fire we light is free from risk. We assume risk anytime we put fire on the ground and stuff can and does go wrong.

### **Orientation Topic: Forest Funding, Appropriations and Trends ~ Pam Wilhelm**

**Brown:** Next on the agenda, Forest Funding, Appropriations and Trends.

**Bobzien:** Pam Wilhelm is the Black Hills National Forest Customer Service Staff Officer. Pam has prepared a Budget 101 presentation on appropriations and uses of funds. We talk a lot about money and she has been at this for a long time. She is going to hit on some high points. Detailed templates with more information will also be made available.

**PowerPoint:** USDA Forest Service - Budget 101 ~ Pam Wilhelm

#### **Forest Service Budget**

- It is the responsibility of the Forest Supervisor to provide controls, supervision, and assurance to the Regional Forester that funds are budgeted and expended in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, congressional intent and agency guidance.
- Appendix A shows a sample of the FY 2014 expended Budget budget.

#### **National Forest System**

- National Forest System (NFS) program funds are to be used to pay for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the NFS. Projects must be on NFS lands unless otherwise authorized by law.
- NFS appropriations are, for the expenses necessary for managing, protecting, improving, and utilizing the National Forest System.



## **Program Code - Budget Line Items (BLI)**

### **NFS - National Forest System**

NFIM	Inventory and Monitoring Funds
NFLM	Landownership Management Funds
NFMG	Minerals and Geology Management Funds
NFPN	NFS Land Management Planning Funds
NFRG	Grazing Management Funds
NFRW	Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness Funds
NFTM	Forest Products Funds
NFVW	Vegetation and Watershed Management Funds
NFWF	Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management Funds

## **Facilities Capital Improvement and Maintenance**

- The facilities program (CMFC & CP09) supports agency mission activities by administering facilities and sites used for recreation, research, and fire, administrative and operations (FA&O) purposes. This program includes carrying out maintenance, capital improvement, and management on these sites.
- The National Forest Road System (NFRS) is an integral part of the rural transportation network (CMRD, CMLG, CMTL). It is operated and maintained to provide safe access for resource program activities, including terrestrial and aquatic ecosystem management programs and programs that support public enjoyment by providing access to recreation sites, trailheads, and special areas. All resources and utilization programs are dependent upon the NFRS for access.

## **Wildfire Management**

- Wildland Fire (WFPR) Management's objective is to protect life, property, and natural resources on the National Forest System (NFS) land and on adjacent State and private lands protected through fee or reciprocal protection agreements in an efficient, and cost-effective manner.
- The objective of the hazardous fuels (WFHF) program is to reduce the undesired effects of large, destructive wildfires by reducing the volume of hazardous fuels on forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands. The fuels treatment program focuses on reducing the risk of wildland fire and long-term damage to resources and property in high priority areas. The desired outcome of the hazardous fuels program is to reduce the risk of unplanned and unwanted wildland fire to communities and to the environment.

## **Permanent Appropriations**

- Over the years, many Congressional acts have provided the Forest Service authority to keep certain collections and/or administer others. Following are some of those authorities most commonly used by the Forest Service.
  - Brush Disposal Act – This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to require purchasers of national forest timber to deposit the estimated cost to dispose of brush and other debris resulting from their cutting operations.
- National Forest Management Act – This Act authorizes Salvage timber harvest receipts (SSSS) shall be deposited in a designated Treasury fund from which money is available for obligation until expended.

- Federal Lands Recreations Enhancement Act – Ninety-five percent of the fees collected are deposited to FDDS and may be used for the area, site, or project concerned, for backlog repair and maintenance projects, and for interpretations, signage, habitat or facility enhance mane, resource preservation, annual operation, maintenance and law enforcement related to public use.
- Range Betterment Fund – (RBRB) This Act authorizes the Forest Service to retain a set portion of grazing receipts to finance the necessary expenses of range improvements defined in the Act.
- Payments to States Under the Secure Rural Schools Act (SRS2) – Title II funding

### **Trust Funds**

- The cooperative work, Forest Service trust fund is used to collect deposits from partners and cooperators for protecting and improving resources of the National Forest system; as authorized by cooperative agreements.
- Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) – (CWKV & CWK2) The K-V fund is derived from timber sale receipts. CWKV funds are used for a variety of projects, including: reforestation; timber stand improvement (TSI) practices to enhance stand productivity, promote the reforestation, maintenance, or improvement of a variety of forestland ecological conditions, and maintain biological diversity; and protection and improvement of all other resource values on timber sale areas, including wildlife, soil, watershed, range and recreation. The first priority for use of K-V is reforestation of harvested areas.
- Cooperative Work, Other – (CWF2) The “Cooperative Work, Forest Service” are collections authorized by various other statutory authorities. Funding under the CWF2 is used for cooperative road maintenance or other specified road projects.

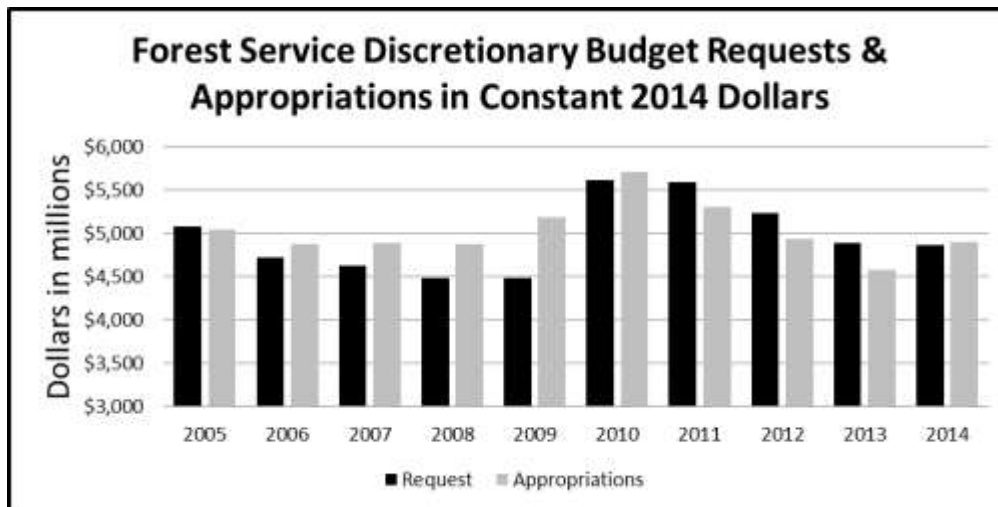
### **Work Activities**

- Program area BLI specific work areas. Work activities identify project work to be accomplished within given line items. Some BLI’s are spread between multiple work activities where others are narrow in scope.
- Appendix B shows a sample of work activities for the Black Hills FY 2014 program of work.

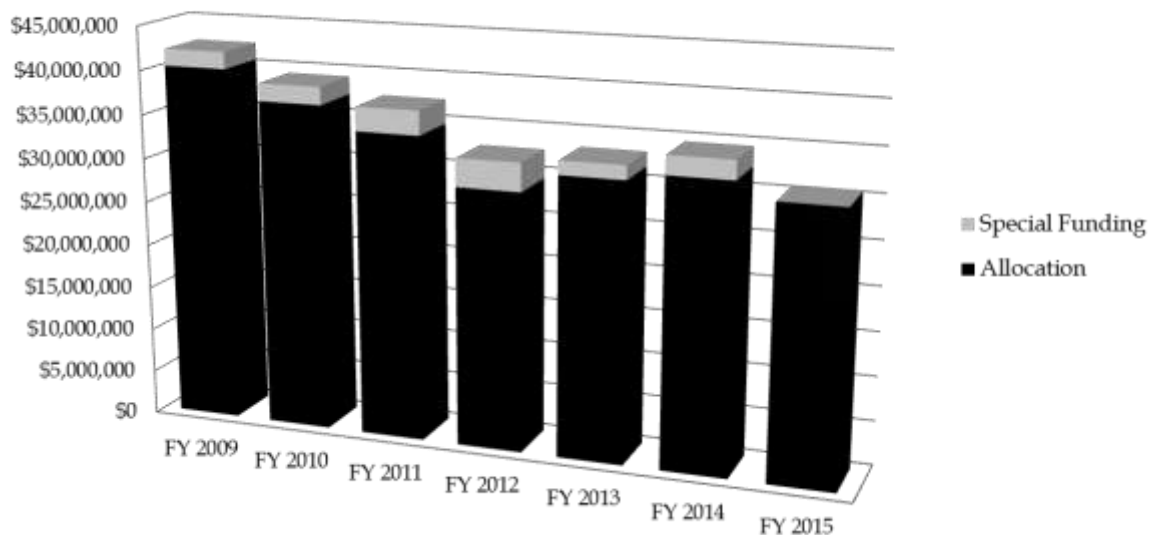
### **Targets & Accomplishments**

- Accomplishment Definitions: (Refer to Appendix C & D for Additional Target & Accomplishment Data)
- To track its outputs and outcomes and to measure progress towards goals, the Forest Service has an established performance management framework. It begins with performance measures established in support of the strategic plan and individual budget line items, by the organizational unit (Deputy Area) responsible for the program. Measures vary in their objectives. Some track program outputs and others inform short-, mid-, and long-term outcomes.

## Forest Service Budget Trends



## Black Hills Budget Trends



**Vonk:** Is NFS your big account and how does it break down?

**Wilhelm:** We will post some details on the web. Our NFS last year was at \$13 million. Wildfire came in at 6.4 million and construction sites were at 3.6 million.

**Public:** Are you locked into those funds? Can you move them from one work activity to another?

**Wilhelm:** No

**Public:** Does an employee have to fill out a time card?

**Wilhelm:** Yes, it's the supervisor's responsibly to approve time and to look at the time sheet to determine if the employee is charging appropriately.

**Brown:** Let me see if we have board members with questions.

**Whalen:** With any income, do they keep it or does it go to a massive fund somewhere?

**Wilhelm:** There are acts where we can keep some of the funds. We keep quite a bit but quite a bit goes to the general fund (treasury). There have been acts passed by congress to keep funds.

**Bob Burns:** So the money for thinning is in one pot and the one for planting is one pot. Can you use these funds?

**Wilhelm:** It depends on the target and the region. If they gave us a TSI target and if we can't make the TSI target than they will expect money to be returned.

We moved some funding for range veg. We pushed hard to accomplish the targets and we still had to explain why we weren't meeting the TSI targets. Some regional foresters are really strict and it's one of those situations where it can get complex. I think we do a good job of keeping the region informed and pleased.

**Tokarczyk:** What percent of the bark beetle amounts is there and is there any other significant special funding?

**Wilhelm:** In 2009, it was ARRA, the president's initiative to get people back to work. The percentage is pretty low. We are looking at 1 - 4 million. In 2014, we came in at 2.4 million for special projects. It depends congressionally. In some years when we have had large fire events and they come up with funding so that we can rehab some of that land. We have stable accounts that we get appropriated. A lot of it depends on who is in power. There are some years where it is way up and the next it is way down. We are at the whim of congress.

**Public:** Where does the travel management fund come from?

**Wilhelm:** We keep 95% of the funding from sold trail permits that will be used for maintenance of the trail system. That funding comes in permanent appropriations.

**Public:** Why can't you use that for the mountain pine beetle project?

**Wilhelm:** An authorization from congress is very specific to what we can spend money on.

**Brown:** Generally funds are decided by law and there is money there but it isn't a big piece.

**Wilhelm:** It is law. It is congressionally collected and spent. We get audited and they look at everything we do, so we have to be careful on how we spend our money.

### **Northern Long Eared Bat Listing Update ~ Steve Hirtzel**

**Brown:** The next topic is the Northern Eared Bat Listing Update (NLEB).

**Bobzien:** I'd like to introduce Steve Hirtzel, Forest Biologist. He's the regional representative that's been working on NLEB.

**Hirtzel:** NLEB Update since Sept 17 NFAB meeting:

**FWS NLEB Biology/Ecology Team activities**

- Couple conference calls in late-Sept/early Oct
  - Purpose = to fill data gaps for the listing decision and provide data for the FWS NLEB Threats and Conservation Measures Teams
  - Bio/Eco Team is not making decisions or providing consensus recommendations
  - No activity for the past month

**Midwest Association of Fish & Wildlife Agencies (MAFWA) Bat Planning Meeting**

- Attended MAFWA meeting Oct 1-2 in Minneapolis, MN
- 25 States/USFS WO & Regions 2, 8 & 9/USFWS represented
- State Strategy Meeting
  - Product = Nov 5 letter signed by MAFWA, SE F&W Agencies, Southern Group of State Foresters, NE Association of State Foresters
  - Challenge that "endangered" status is not supported.
  - If listed as threatened, consider an exemption for normal forest management and other land management practices with developed Best Management Practices

**Listing Process Update**

- U.S Fish & Wildlife Service has reopened the public comment period on the proposed bat listing. Comment deadline is Dec 18. There is also a public hearing in Sundance, WY on Dec 2.

**Tysdal:** Can you expand on the exemptions? What are they looking at?

**Hirtzel:** I don't have a real good sense of that yet. There was a listing on the Gunnison that applied to ranching practices and they would be exempted.

**Tysdal:** When will we know what those exemptions come down to?

**Hirtzel:** I wouldn't be on the forefront of having that answer. The best approximate date would be April 2, when they will decide if they are going to do a 4D rule or not.

**Bob Burns:** If it was listed and there were some exemptions would that affect federal land or private land?

**Hirtzel:** It would just relate to the federal lands for us. Everyone has to look at for their own turf.

**Burns:** Would this affect my land?

**Hirtzel:** I'm not real familiar with how the private landowners will be affected. If you had forested property and were doing forestry activities on that land, it might, but if you're activities are not affecting the bat, I believe you'd be free to do what you want to do.

**Verchio:** Have they determined if the bat is threatened?

**Hirtzel:** We don't have a lot of information to say whether the population is up or down.

**Verchio:** Do we have any white nose syndrome in South Dakota?

**Hirtzel:** At this time we haven't seen any.

**Verchio:** So we could see the repercussions for things happening in New York?

**Whalen:** We are dealing with Julie Reeves out of Cheyenne, WY and she asked if we phoned in on a hearing back in August. We didn't know about the phone conference. On December 2, at the Crook County courthouse, we will have an evidentially hearing. This will affect public land, ranching, and it will also affect counties like Crook and Weston. We would like everyone to attend. I also read in the paper that the Forest has challenged the decision for this. Does the Forest have the letter on this?

**Hirtzel:** Craig is there a letter? Have we seen the letter?

**Tokarczyk:** Is there likelihood that it will be considered endangered? What does that mean and what are the implications?

**Hirtzel:** Endangered means that in the near future it's likely to go extinct. If it's listed as threatened that means that in the near future it's likely to become endangered. With the northern long eared bat, it could be listed as threatened and then become endangered later on.

**Brenneisen:** How would we get an answer to know if the Black Hills National Forest has filed a challenge?

**Bobzien:** There was a submitted letter of challenge. With the identified science, we wanted to make sure that it was in their record.

**Tysdal:** Are there more than one species of bat in the Black Hills?

**Hirtzel:** There are maybe 7 or 8 other bat species. Some bat species seem less affected by white nose syndrome but other species could be affected. We need to think bigger for every bat not just the NLEB.

**Tokarczyk:** In the federal register listing, there are suggested items to comment on. This is a unique situation with white nose syndrome. This is a species that is potentially threatened where that disease is prevalent. If we have an increase of northern long eared bat, would that increase the risk of white nose syndrome? Does that make the chance of the bats getting the disease greater?

**Hirtzel:** From a biology standpoint, not all bats are the same. For instance, the northern long eared bat has 2-3 bats per group and the Indiana bat might have thousands in a group.

**Tokarczyk:** There needs to be some more questions answered.

**Whalen:** There has to be a letter circulating somewhere (Read Rapid City Journal article). It's due to a fungus. Why just the northern long eared bat? Is this specific to just that species or are all bats targeted?

**Hirtzel:** Bats appear to be vulnerable. Not just the northern long eared bat, but all bats on the eastern portion of the US. And it also pertains to certain cave conditions.

**Allen:** If you want to look on the fish and wildlife website, they have the listing proposal and it talks about other bat species as well. There are some that are much more susceptible. The northern long eared bat has a high mortality rate but others might not be so high.

**Hirtzel:** The northern long eared bat was proposed for listing and through the listing they determined there is some difference between bats and susceptibility.

**Brown:** This is a critical issue that we all have an interest in. Any way we can be kept in the loop would be helpful and useful to the board.

**Jacobson:** We had a media inquiry a little while back. We got a call asking about the letter and Kerry Burns responded to the journalist.

**Brown:** Please keep the board in the loop on this topic.

**Allen:** When Kerry did his last presentation, I believe Kerry said he was going to get a representative from the fish and wildlife service.

**Bobzien:** Scott Larson was here last spring. I'll see him December 2 and ask him.

**Brown:** Let's see if we can get a wildlife service representative here.

### **Public Comments**

**Brown:** Comments from the public are now welcome.

**Ken Edel:** In regard to the recreation facility group, will there be an opportunity for the public to review and provide input for that?

**Bobzien:** Yes, there is group and regional involvement and we plan to engage the public as well.

**Ken Edel:** Is the enterprise team a team that is coming in from somewhere else?

**Bobzien:** The enterprise team is Forest Service employees and they are specialized in this work.

**Sam Griner:** I represent the Black Hills prospecting club and two months ago we wanted to have a meeting in Custer. Because of land and road management, part of our claim was shut down without notification. We have 500 members and 28 of them are disabled. They no longer had access and quite a few of them couldn't do what they wanted to do that day. We had a meeting with Sherri Schwenke. She said she was sorry. There needs to be some kind of a way of communication so we understand what you are doing? No one understands why you are shutting down large pieces of road. Are you going to shut down so many roads that you can't get to fires and it's going to burn a place down?

**Bobzien:** We have a federal designation to do a motorized process for the roads and trails which started in 2006 and was completed in 2010. We adopted this to manage a certain number of roads and trails and those can change over time. This specific case had to do with some selection of roads that were not in that road section. These weren't system roads and so your question is on notification. We do about 100 projects and we do miss people on contact lists sometimes. We do try to notify people before the projects are done. I can't say why someone missed this. I believe we can learn from this and learn how best to contact people that were affected by this project.

**Sam Griner:** Can this be rectified? Can this be re-opened?

**Bobzien:** Yes it may be. I know it was in the French Creek watershed area. They are trying to improve water quality as one of the objectives.

**Sam Griner:** You have cattle and you are going to pump water uphill to get cattle away from the stream? On one hand, you are saying you are protecting the watershed and on the other hand you are ridiculous in what you are doing by pumping water 1 ½ miles uphill. I asked and the answer is no.

**Bobzien:** I can't say one size fits all. We take it site by site. We have best management practices to not allow erosion to happen and we work with permittees. We do look at water and how to protect the stream.

**Sam Griner:** One thing I would like to say is you guys have a big job. I have to commend you on a lot of things you do but we do need to work together. Trying to keep people from tripping around in streams is a big job.

**Bobzien:** Thank you and we do operate under multiple use. We are trying to achieve one objective and there may be another item that shows up that we didn't know about.

**Sam Griner:** I'd like to show you photos where they took whole trees and put them in the stream.

**Brown:** Please communicate and work with the Forest Service after the meeting.

**Bobzien** – I just wanted to mention that we will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month starting in February 2015.

## **ADJOURN**

**Brown:** Are there any more comments? If not, could I have a motion to adjourn; motion made by Mike Verchio and seconded by Linda Tokarczyk. The motion passed unanimously.

The Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m. Next Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2015.